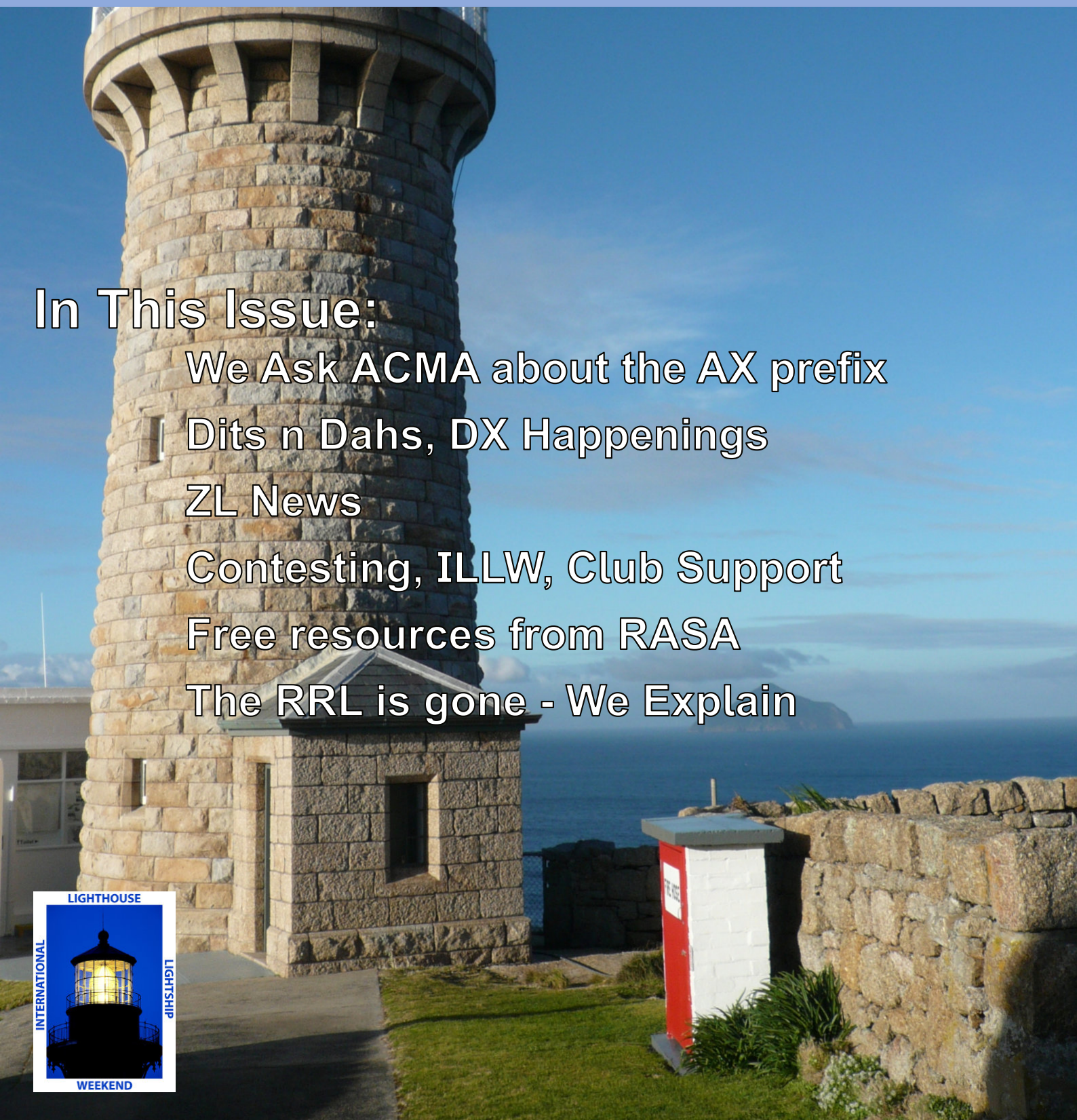
QTC Magazine

July 2026

The Radio Amateur Society of Australia



In This Issue:

We Ask ACMA about the AX prefix

Dits n Dahs, DX Happenings

ZL News

Contesting, ILLW, Club Support

Free resources from RASA

The RRL is gone - We Explain

LIGHTHOUSE INTERNATIONAL LIGHTSHIP WEEKEND

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Reflected Power
Wasted Power
VSWR REPRESENTED AS A PINT OF BEER
Output Power
Forward Power
Useful Radiated Power
It's all about the ratio between good beer and pointless beer.

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QTC is published monthly. If you would like to receive your copy you can either visit our web site to download or send us an email and we'll put you on our distribution list.

You are welcome to join RASA or simply make a donation to support our work.

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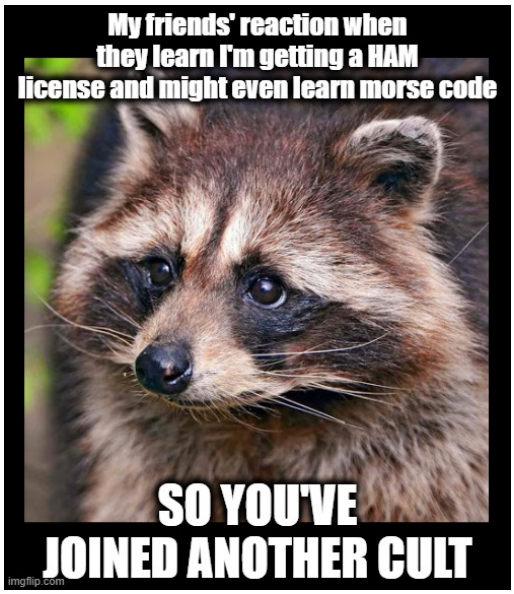
Wilsons Promontory, VK3, by Ian VK3BUF

Contributing Items For QTCMagazine

QTC Magazine welcomes contributions for future editions. When planning to submit an article, please read our submission guidelines first.

Following the guidelines will save you and the editing team a lot of time and effort. The guidelines are HERE


My friends' reaction when they learn I'm getting a HAM license and might even learn morse code
SO YOU'VE JOINED ANOTHER CULT
imgflip.com

From the President on Accountability

Why Accountability is Important to Amateur Radio, Now and In the Future.

I like to keep in touch with what is happening with Amateur Radio outside VK. One thing that came my way was the group “My ARRL Voice” and their issues with ARRL (see the Infographic). Looking further into what the perceived issues are it really comes down to one major point "Accountability".

Regardless of your point of view (if any) with the ARRL, one has to agree that Accountability is important when it comes to governance of any National Body.

What are the pillars of Accountability?

Be Active - Boardroom meetings have their limits.Look for outside the square thinking.

Be Visible - Facilitate and endorse activities, as well as new ideas and directions.

Be Co-operative - Collaborate and work with individuals, groups, clubs, and government at all levels.

Be Strong - Strengthen the organisation and assist other Clubs and Groups in doing the same.

Be Effective - Assess the current and future needs of the Amateur Radio hobby and act upon them.

Promote Amateur Radio - Move away from outdated stereotypes; embrace a proactive, modern approach to attract new individuals and ideas.

Show Transparency - Be open and honest about new developments; avoid appearing like a secret society.

Be Inclusive - Simply put, encourage and support everyone.

Take Responsibility - Acknowledge your mistakes. Avoid trying to deceive or mislead in challenging situations.

Be Honest, respectful and considerate. Not covering these will undermine the efforts of others and push members away.

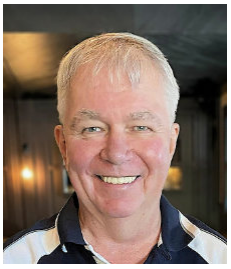
Be Trustworthy - Trust can be easily lost and is difficult to regain.

Last but not least, **Be Cautious of Deception**

When falsehoods effectively masquerade as truths, they do more than mislead people—they break apart our common understanding. This intentional weakening of truth fosters distrust, divides communities, and undermines the trust needed for meaningful conversations.

Overcoming this strategy requires more than simply disproving the facts; it necessitates a conscious recognition of the mental blind spots that render these falsehoods so persuasive from the outset.

Amateur Radio has a proud history of service, innovation, and camaraderie. Accountability is the thread that connects our past achievements to our future success. By holding ourselves to high standards - individually and collectively - we ensure that Amateur Radio will continue to inform, inspire, and serve for generations to come.



Paul VK2APA

From the Editor

"Sorry OM, I can only work QRP at the moment!"

As you may have noticed, I like to slip the odd cartoon into QTC. Maybe it's for a bit of a giggle break, but I find it useful to fill odd spaces. I'm told my brain is one of those. Odd space that is.

There is, however, a reason for using this one. And here's why.

Ever since I began in Amateur Radio, when working HF, my default power setting is usually 100 watts. That's what the radio can do, it works fine, the radio loves it and so do I. But I've mellowed.

You see, I've started going to the gym at my tender young age of [redacted].

If you've ever been in a gym, you'll be aware that it is replete with a variety of machines designed to encourage you to inflict pain on yourself, because it's apparently good for you.

Some of the machines have a digital instrument that measures the energy you're generating in order to inflict the pain. One of the numbers displayed is Watts - how much power you're generating (or wasting depending on your point of view) whilst self inflicting.

Something I noticed very early in the piece is how much effort I have to put in to reach and maintain 100 Watts. It's not easy.

I'm beginning to think that perhaps I ought to wind the transmitter power back. Back to the principle of "sufficient power to achieve the job".

I doubt I'd get away with that argument at the gym.

In this month's QTC there are all the usual pages such as Dits n Dahs, News from ZL, DX Happenings, Contests and promos for the resources that RASA provides free to Amateurs.

RASA recently wrote to the ACMA asking for clarity on the use of the AX prefix, and also on the ACMA we write about the demise of the old Register of Radio Licences, and a bit of the history of how Amateurs used it.

Paul, VK2APA, as RASA President, has written a good article on Accountability in Amateur Radio organisations. It's a good read.

RASA had a table at the GGREC hamfest recently, attended by two RASA directors and their (Amateur) partners.

We promote Amateur activities free of charge - just ask us, and provide the copy and artwork. This month we're promoting the VKFF get-together in Albury and the NCRG Hamfest and Raffle. You can send your clubs promos QTC via **EMAIL**.

We hope you enjoy your read this month, and we welcome contributions and photos. All contributons can be sent via email.

RASA asks ACMA to Clarify AX

The RASA Board has written to the ACMA asking them to clarify the rules around use of the “AX” callsign prefix. The full letter is included further down the page.

Why are we asking?

Many of you will recall in 2022, pending the funeral of her Majesty Queen Elizabeth 2nd, RASA, on behalf of Australian Amateurs, approached the ACMA for permission for Amateurs to use the “AX” prefix with their callsigns for a short period around the royal funeral.

The response from the ACMA was (paraphrased) “The ACMA has no discretion to grant permission to use the AX prefix other than on the three days prescribed in the LCD, however we would not be interested in prosecuting Amateurs for using the AX prefix to mark this occasion”.

That was simple enough, and the message was announced to Australian Amateurs. Unfortunately some Australian Amateurs took exception and complained to the ACMA, who under this new pressure withdrew their previous tacit permission.

So that was fine, we got on with life.

LCD Revision in 2025
The ACMA conducted a consultation in April-May 2025 to review the LCD. RASA’s submission to the consultation included a recommendation for an additional clause relating to the AX prefix, that would give the Minister or their delegate the power to grant use of the AX prefix on occasions of national significance. This suggestion was not adopted by the ACMA in the revised LCD.

An event was advertised a while ago, “Celebrating 120 Years: Australian Army Cadets and Amateur Radio” with the callsign AX120AAC”. Undoubtedly a fine event, ***and RASA is not critical of the event or its organisers***. In fact, RASA would be pleased to assist with publicity and stories in QTC magazine. Being a bit puzzled by the use of AX, we dug around and found a policy document.

The **Amateur Radio Callsign Policy** dated September 2024 is published to the ACMA Website.

This policy, on page 13, contains this entry referring to the three dates named in the LCD where the “AX” prefix may be used:

> *“Amateur operators will not need to apply to the ACMA to be assigned to use the AX call signs on these dates. However, amateur operators will need to apply for use of the AX prefix, using the application for a special event call sign, on dates that are not specified for special use in the class licence.”*

What we are seeking from the ACMA is clarification around the use of the “AX” prefix. The Regulations (The LCD) says one thing, and a Policy Document says another.

In a previous instance we wrote to the ACMA where there was an important discrepancy between the LCD and the ACMA website on the use of Third Party messaging. The ACMA made it clear to us that in the event of conflicting directions, the LCD document always has precedence. (They subsequently adjusted their website.) As AX callsigns are now being issued for non-gazetted AX days, some clarification is in order.

RASA will publish the response from the ACMA in order for everyone to be aware, and to avoid future misunderstandings when an occasion worthy of marking occurs.

The Radio Amateur Society of Australia inc.
BEING HEARD IS IMPORTANT
vkradioamateurs.org

07/07/2026

Dear ACMA policy dept.

We seek clarification on the use of the AX callsign prefix for special events.

The previous and current (2025) LCD makes reference to the usage of these callsigns:

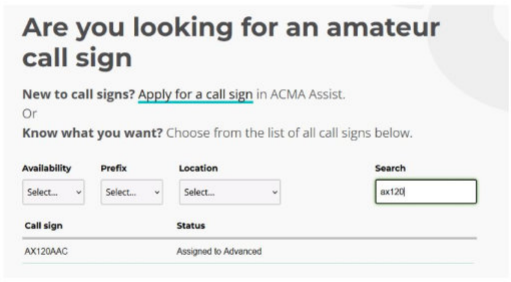
> (4) If a call sign commences with the letters VK, the person may substitute those letters with the letters AX when complying with subsections (1) and (2) on the following dates each year:
> (a) 26 January;
> (b) 25 April;
> (c) 17 May.
> Note: 26 January is Australia Day, 25 April is ANZAC Day, and 17 May is World Telecommunication Day.
> Example: On a date specified in subsection (4), a person who is assigned the VK1ZZZ call sign may use instead the AX1ZZZ call sign.

In 2022, when Australia's Queen, Elizabeth II passed away and a state funeral was pending, RASA approached the ACMA to see if it were possible and appropriate to use the AX prefix for that occasion.

We were advised that although it was a day of significance, this could not be authorised because the day of the state funeral for the Queen was not one of the three days stated in the LCD above.

In RASA’s submission to the consultation for the 2025 LCD, (April 14 to May 26) RASA recommended an amendment to section 4, Viz. in addition to (a) (b) (c) to include an additional clause that would give the minister discretion to permit the use of the AX prefix on days of national significance. This recommendation was not accepted and Section (4) remained unchanged, notionally indicating there will be no discretion available, and that use of the AX prefix would remain confined to the three days specified in the LCD.

However, earlier Earlier this year the callsign AX120AAC was issued to an Advanced operator. (Search extract below)



It appears that the intended use of this AX callsign is for an entire year and is not for the specific days specified in the LCD.
Mr Robert Pitman VK2ADF who appears to be the applicant of this callsign has posted the following:

Throughout the year, cadets will operate under the AX120AAC call sign to commemorate this landmark anniversary and to connect with other ham radio operators world wide. The decision to use the AX120AAC call sign aligns perfectly with the cadets' mission to engage with their community and foster connections beyond their immediate environment. This initiative will promote teamwork and collaboration among cadets, as they will work together to set up portable stations, manage radio operations, and communicate with other amateur radio operators. It's an interactive way to celebrate their history while also enhancing the cadets' technical skills in radio operations.

Source: https://www.qrz.com/db/AX120AAC

The granting of a callsign with the AX prefix (AX120AAC) for an entire year appears to be inconsistent with the three special days specified in the LCD. It is also inconsistent with the advice we had previously received from the ACMA that the ACMA has no discretion to grant permission for additional use of the AX prefix.

Can you please advise if there has been a change in policy permitting the usage of AX callsigns that exceeds the three fixed days specified within the LCD

Sincerely

Ian Jackson, Admin Secretary, on behalf of the RASA board.

VK BUDGET QSL CARDS

Custom designed QSL cards - 300gsm, 0.31mm, 140 x 90mm, colour, double-sided and matt print.

Prices start at $70 for 500 QSL cards, designed, printed and air shipping.

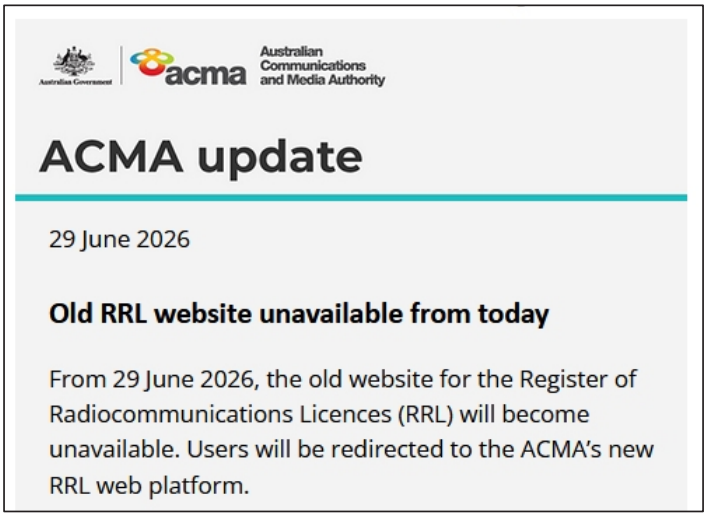
*Larger quantities are available.

Checkout Eham Reviews at: VK Budget QSL Cards

For more information contact:

Graeme VK5GG at graememorgan72(at)hotmail.com

The Old RRL Website Is No More


Australian Communications and Media Authority
acma
ACMA update
29 June 2026
Old RRL website unavailable from today
From 29 June 2026, the old website for the Register of Radiocommunications Licences (RRL) will become unavailable. Users will be redirected to the ACMA's new RRL web platform.

As of the 29th of June this year the ACMA has retired its old *Register of Radio Licenses* (RRL)

Before Amateur licenses transitioned to a Class Licence, details of all Amateur licensees were scattered entries throughout this massive database.

This was a public resource and the source of records that became Amateur Callbooks. In 2024 the Class Licence system was activated, meaning that Amateurs were no longer Apparatus Licensees and they were removed from the database over the course of that year.

Today the only publicly accessible information is the Callsign Register on a different part of the ACMA website, which reveals a callsign and class of licence only (Foundation, Standard, Advanced or 'Unassigned'). A useful tool for new Amateurs who wish to identify an unused callsign for their application.

The register was more than a single file. It existed as several files with linked fields. No one file contained all the Amateur information. Files were in a CSV format, which is a simple text format where fields of data are separated by commas. The files were zipped together and downloadable by the public.

To give some idea of how callbooks were formed from this raw data, there was a complex process to be followed.

> There was a **Client.csv** file with about 30,000 records in 12 fields of data. This had a Client number, operator address information, but no callsign.
>
> There was a **Device Details.csv** file with over a million records in 54 fields of data. This had callsigns and Licence numbers only.
>
> Then there was a **License.csv** file with 170,000 records in 15 fields of data. This had no callsigns, but it did have License numbers and category of license, Standard, Advanced etc.

You can see the dilemma. The Amateur Operator details were scattered between these files and each had to be linked into a single cohesive output record of **Callsign**, **License type**, **Name** and **Address** before any type of callbook could be generated.

There were too many records in two of the files to open this data in a spreadsheet. (Excel capped at around 65,000 records) so the data had to be read into an Access .mdb format. Here complex lookups could be used to query, match and extract specific data. These steps require the implementation of quite advanced database features. Duplicate records had to be located and purged. Records were then separated by state and territory.
Repeater and Beacon data were isolated into separate categories. The records had to be grouped by callsign length before being sorted alphabetically. This was so two-letter calls VKnAA, VKnAB were grouped separately to VKnAAA, VKnAAB and so forth.

The process was slow and methodical, with frequent integrity checks to ensure the data remained fully synchronised. The final step was to format the data into friendly columns that made it suitable for printing.

The last callbook was published in 2021. The WIA would charge for their list as a formal publication. RASA published the data as a digital copy which was made available for free.

These publications were an important tool for Amateurs. You could look up a person's callsign to determine where best to point your antenna. You could locate other amateurs who lived nearby. Sometimes they were used as a tool to help prove (or disprove) sources of interference.

The lists were published with the permission of the ACMA. Later in 2021 anonymous persons lodged a complaint with the ACMA and other statutory authorities about the public availability of their data. This complaint was upheld and the ACMA withdrew their permission for the publication of such documents. Since that time neither the WIA nor RASA are able to publish callsign listings.

That situation became moot in 2024 when Amateurs were systematically removed from the database, as they were migrated to *Class Licences* and were no longer holding 'Apparatus' licences. (Amateur repeaters and beacons are still Apparatus licenses, still pay annual fees and are retained in the new ACMA RRL primary database.)

The new ACMA Licence register is now located **HERE**.

There are significant advantages to the current system whereby we no longer have to pay the pesky $54 annual licence fee. Amateur identity can be made via listings in QRZ.com, but this is somewhat hit-and-miss and the quality of Australian contact details is diminishing over time.

The old callsign lists have rapidly become obsolete and there are many callsign changes that have taken place over the past 5 years.

RASA will continue to publish statistics and measure growth of the various licence classes. This is important so that we may identify trends and allocate resources into the future.

Dits n Dahs

By Chris VK3QB

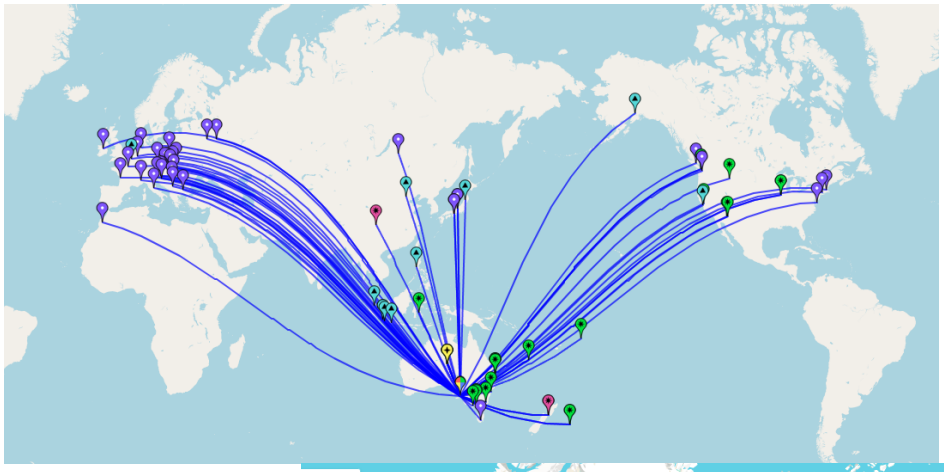
I'll keep some regular content in this column each month; to serve as a reminder for regular readers and as new information for those just joining us. As always, please email me with any news, stories, or anecdotes that may be of interest to other readers. This column will also provide news and updates from FISTS Down Under, and I plan to reintroduce the "Key of the Month" segment.

CQ WPX CW 2026 – VK5GG: Single Operator All-Bands QRP

A part-time effort, I'm not someone who could sit in front of the radio for 36 hours in a weekend. A total of 81 QSO's on 5 bands and across 5 continents, and a claimed score of 14272. Lost the final morning (Monday morning VK time) due to an approaching wind-storm in VK5. It was good to again work CN3A, 5W1SA, and active CW op Oliver TM4ZZ aka F6ARC with QRP.

Rig was an Icom IC-7300 at 5w, and a DX Commander 'Classic' fan-vertical antenna.

The next CW contest similar in size is CQ World Wide on 28-29 November 2026.



DXpedition - DX Marathon - VJ2L

Last month a team of 7 operators were busy working the pileups from Lord Howe Island. The good news for readers of this column is that 6 of the 7 are CW operators. The team put just under 25,000 QSOs in the log. Watch out for a complete run down of this trip in the next edition of QTC.

While you're at it, check out DX-Marathon. It's a fun and easy contest that runs for 2 months and you can participate in at your own rate.

Learn more **HERE**.

Visit the **QRZ page** or Facebook for more news. On Facebook, search for VJ2L.

CW Academy

Semester 2 for CW Academy has finished up with students completing Beginners and Fundamentals classes.

The general feedback has been very positive and as long as there is demand CW Academy will continue delivering classes at times suitable to the VK and ZL communities.

Already I've heard from students who are reporting amazing improvements in their code and the enjoyment and satisfaction that accompanies this success.

"The course itself is superb, one learned the characters almost effortlessly. "

"Overall I have enjoyed the course and can easily see the improvements I have made undertaking this course. Chris, thanks for all the help and motivation behind the course."

If you'd like to learn the code, or simply want to polish up your existing skills, CW Academy has the runs on the board, having taught over 11,000 students worldwide. The program works very well. To learn more visit the **CW Academy Website**.

New resource to help CW operators

Since last month a couple of new articles have been posted and more are in development. Keep an eye on this website if you're keen to pick up some hints and tips. You can check it out **HERE**.

It also includes a YouTube channel with the recording of the interviews I've been conducting since January 2026. If you have any questions or feedback about the site please send me an email.

Morse Code Live Interviews via Mastering Morse Zoom

I must apologise for not running the Mastering Morse Zoom session last month. Between the Lord Howe Island trip and running CW Academy classes, time was just too tight.

Watch the website for news of the next **Mastering Morse Zoom session** - depending on schedules and availability, it will be in July or August.

Upcoming Events

Monday - Medium Speed Test (MST)

Great practice at around 20 - 25 wpm

Times: Every Monday: 1300 - 1400Z and 1900 - 2000Z

Every Tuesday: 0300 - 0400Z

More info **HERE**

Tuesday night – CQ QRS net – 80, 40 & 20 metres. CW segments of the bands. Typically, 12 - 18 wpm - More info **HERE.**

Wednesday Wrap – 80, 40 & 20 metres. 0900 UTC – 1200 UTC, FDU Frequencies x.028 +/- (included some fast code practice for those interested) More Info **HERE**.

CW Test (CWT)

Great practice but a bit manic speed wise. Mostly 28 wpm - 40 wpm

Times: Every Wednesday: 1300 - 1400Z and 1900 - 2000Z

Every Thursday: 0300 - 0400Z and 0700 - 0800Z

More Info **HERE**.

NZ Net, which has been operating daily on 7.030 MHz at 0800 UTC, changes to 3.535 MHz at 0900 UTC for the duration of the southern Winter, effective Sunday 5 April. The net welcomes all check-ins, with or without traffic.

RandomGram

Date: 25th July @ 2200 UTC

Click on the image for more information.

RandomGrams

A Different Kind of Activity

By Chris VK3QB

We are starting to see some more participation from VK and ZL operators which is great. Thanks Stan ZL3TK, Kevin VK3KEV, Derek VK4DRK, Colin VK2DVA, Peter VK3WOW for getting involved and exchanging letter/number groups.

Now we have VK/ZL/JA activity hours which enable us to concentrate our activity, rather than scan the bands over the full 24 hour period. 0700 - 0900 UTC- which is a good time for 40 and 80 metre propagation locally.

If you haven't tried RandomGram yet, give it a go; this next event will be on the 25th July at 2200UTC.

RandomGram is a unique Morse code event that prioritises accuracy over speed. Unlike standard contests where operators exchange predictable information like serial numbers, RandomGram requires participants to accurately exchange groups of random characters.

Key Features

- **Accuracy-Focused**: Scores are determined entirely by how accurately random character groups are transmitted and received.
- **Even Playing Field**: Because the character groups are random, operators cannot "guess" or use software to auto-fill information, making it accessible to operators of all skill levels.
- **SWL Participation**: Shortwave Listeners (SWL) can participate by monitoring and logging exchanges they hear between other stations.

How to Participate

1. **Get Your Unique Code Groups List**: Before an event, you must email your call sign to **RG+owner@groups.io** to receive a list of registered random code groups. Make sure you include a note that you're part of team Oceania.
2. **Call CQ RG** During the designated event time, call CQ RG or answer others on non-WARC HF bands.
3. **The Exchange**: Send a real signal report (RST) and **one** random code group from your TX List. RSN is the better reporting protocol in these circumstances; with this protocol you provide the other operator with an insight into the challenges you are facing, thus he can tailor his sending to optimise readability.
4. **Logging**: Log the code group you receive from the other station. You can contact the same station multiple times on the same band (no *dupe* restrictions). Just make sure you either call CQ or work another station before logging a *dupe*.
5. **Submit your log**: Email your log listing of only received groups, no callsigns, signal reports or times, to the organiser (RG+owner@groups.io to have your accuracy verified and results published)

To give you an idea of how it I works, I ended up logging eight RG QSOs with three different stations (ZL3TK, N1FG & VK2DVA) and received the following 5-letter groups.

A7N67 9RIB6 SJM1D 6O113 UPTNK KJ4VJ GQXKZ GC777

Each group was sent at least twice; in fact, so deep was the QSB with ZL3TK in one QSO, I must have asked for four or five repeats; but I'm confident that I copied the group correctly.

Once confident I had copied the group correctly I sent a "R R QSL QSL TU"; some operators send back what they have copied asking for confirmation. There's no hard and fast rule, so do whatever works for you to ensure you have the group copied correctly.

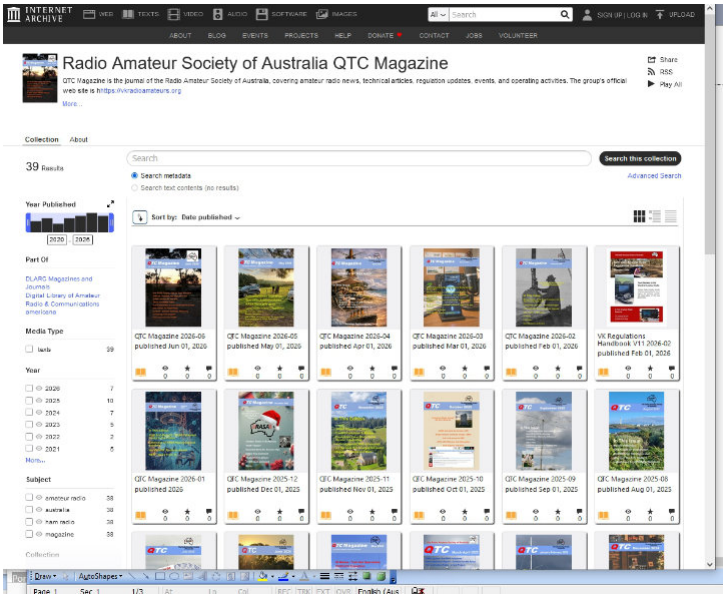
Next time I hope to log many more RG QSOs, see more local participation, and work more DX ops. Also, Stan has created the *Oceania* team, so if you do participate, please let the organiser know you'd like to join the team when you register.

So, give it a go; the RG Event usually runs for 24 hours, but you only need to put in as much time as you want. Skeds can be arranged via the SKCC Sked page.

For current event schedules and detailed rules, you can visit the **RandomGram Groups.io page** or follow updates from Drew Kowal AF2Z on the **QRZ Forums.**

QTC Magazine Now On Internet Archive

The Internet Archive is a non-profit digital library intended to preserve important digitally published works. All back issues of QTC have been added to the library and are available via their search tools. Millions of documents have been preserved at this site.



You can read about the Internet Archive **HERE** or visit the QTC collection in the archive via **THIS LINK**.

VK Radio Trader - a New Free Service

VK Radio Trader
AUSTRALIA'S HAM RADIO MARKETPLACE
BUILT BY AUSTRALIAN AMATEUR RADIO OPERATORS
Buy, Sell & Connect with Australia's Amateur Radio Community
VERIFIED VK CALLSIGNS
Genuine amateur operators only - no anonymous sellers.
ALWAYS FREE TO LIST
No fees, no catches. Post your gear in minutes.
A REAL VK COMMUNITY
Full member profiles, events, and a home beyond classifieds.
JOIN FREE TODAY!
vkradiotrader.com.au
Scan to Join Free
VK FOCUSED | VERIFIED CALLSIGNS | AUSTRALIAN OWNED | BUILT BY HAMS
vkradiotrader.com.au

RASA welcomes VK Radio Trader to the VK Amateur scene, and we wish them all the best for success. We advertise this service free of charge as it is a free service provided to Australian Amateurs. To access VKRadio Trader, click on the image or scan the QR code.

Many people coming into A.R. have difficulty with the Metric quantifying prefixes.

Totally free of charge or obligation, RASA offers this handy ready reckoner for your benefit.

Useful Metric Equivalents

* 1 million microphones = 1 megaphone
* 1 million bicycles = 2 megacycles
* 2000 mockingbirds = two kilomockingbirds
* 52 = 1 decacards
* 1/2 lavatory = 1 demijohn
* 1 millionth of a fish = 1 microfiche
* 435.6 graham crackers = 1 pound cake
* 10 rations = 1 decoration
* 10 millipede = 1 centipede
* 3 1/3 tridents = 1 decadent
* 10 monologues = 5 dialogues
* 2 monograms = 1 diagram
* 8 nickels = 2 paradigms

ZL News

By Philip Sharp, ZL1PSH

On-the-air club activities

Two radio clubs in Auckland held one-day on-the-air events that generated marked interest among hams in the Auckland region.

On Saturday June 20, the North Shore Radio Club (NSRC) activated the POTA park NZ-0018. This park is Shakespeare Regional Park is and is about a 40-minute drive from the clubrooms of the NSRC. The park is a working farm of approximately 500 hectares. The park has a beach and a campground. Two hundred and fifty-eight hectares of the park form an open sanctuary that is protected by a predator-proof fence and the ocean. This sanctuary is a safe haven for many species of wildlife including kiwis.

The NSRC activated the park about 30 metres back from the beach. The activation area was dotted by trees and formed, as Photographs 2, 3 and 4 show, a picturesque setting. The required 10 contacts to activate the park were quickly made on 40m using SSB with 10 watts. The antenna was a dipole configured as an inverted vee with the centre approximately four and half metres above the ground.

Although the goal of NSRC's activity was to activate the POTA park, most of the activity was spent comparing the performance of antennas and discussing the merits of different radios for portable operations.

This photograph shows the base of a quarter-wave vertical for 40m, 20m, 15m and 10m that Steve ZL1SRP had completed building about 12 hours earlier. The silver mast going out the top of the photograph is the driven element. There are coils on the mast to ensure resonance on the four bands. There are two quarter-wave ground radials for each band. The antenna was tested on 40m and worked well.

This photograph captures Charles ZL1CMB with a mag loop antenna. The loop has a high Q and hence a narrow bandwidth. Nevertheless, SSB signals were received on 40m and 20m.

This photograph shows 2m and 70cm Yagis on top of a hydraulic mast. This mast is an integral part of the communications van that NSRC has a share of. Despite the height of the Yagis, no contacts were made on 2m or 70cm.

This photograph shows Cillian ZL1RPC's GUOHETEC GH-V5 7MHz-430MHZ HF UHF VHF antenna. We added the three guy lines on the left side to prevent the antenna from falling over when it was used on 40m. We made three contacts on 40m.

Seven days after the NSRC activation of Shakespeare Regional Park, the Auckland Radio Club ran a two-hour self-drive VOTA activation day. VOTA which is short for Volcanoes on the Air was introduced to Auckland in 2024 by Philip ZL1PSH. VOTA is an award scheme for activating and chasing the 53 volcanic cones in the Auckland area.

Most VOTA activations use the bands 2m and 70cm, and to a lesser extent, 33cm. The use of the 2m and 70cm bands means VOTA provides an excellent way for new hams to get on to the air.

I chased activators from the NSRC club rooms. On 2m and 70cm, almost all activations are made on 146.5 and 432.8 MHz respectively. This can lead to several activations occurring concurrently on the same frequency. This might seem like a recipe for confusion and possibly chaos, but it works out, partly because the overs are kept short.

Since I knew there could be more than one activator on a frequency, I often called “ZL1PSH listening for activators” instead of calling a specific activator. This worked well and I successfully chased 10 activators spread across nine volcanoes. Two of the activators were new hams and they each activated two volcanoes.

I believe the success of the two activities described above bodes well for other clubs who use similar activities.

Remits

The NZART's centennial conference was held May 30-31 in Auckland. The editorial of the June 14 issue of NZART's *InfoLine* said this about the conference:

"What a fantastic weekend at our Centennial Conference in Auckland, the weather stayed pretty warm and dry for the most part, but the many forums and display were enjoyed by a total of 188 registrants with a number who had not registered but came to see the displays and listen in at the AGM. Joining us for our celebration was the IARU President Tim Ellam VE6SH, IARU R3 President Wisnu Widjaja YB0AZ and WIA Vice President Peter Schrader VK4EA. Letters of congratulations were also received from the President of ARRL Rick Rodderick K5UR and President of RSGB Bob Beebe GU4YOX."

As mentioned above, the conference included NZART's AGM. The AGM voted on five remits. Below is a summary of the remits and the outcome of the vote for each. The information for this summary was taken from the June 14 issue of *InfoLine* and pages 38 and 39 of the March / April, 2026 issue of NZART's *Break-In*. Unless stated otherwise, the information consists of direct quotes from the issues of *InfoLine* and *Break-In.*

Remit 1. Digital Magazine & Member Category. Submitted by Branch 05 (Christchurch).

1. NZART to create a digital only membership category. Digital members would have the same rights as non-digital members except they would not receive a printed copy of Break-In.

2. Introduce a reduced annual subscription structure for those wanting only digital copy e.g. a $20 - $35 reduction in annual subs.

The NZART Executive Council made the following comment about the remit in *Break-In*. The NZART Executive Council wishes to advice the membership that providing an electronic copy of Break-In is already in action in accordance with a previous remit, but any discount will need to be discussed by Council as part of the budgeting process.

Outcome of the vote. Failed on voices.

Remit 2. Access to Digital TV Spectrum. Submitted by Branch 05 (Christchurch).

NZART/ELG/ALO work with Radio Spectrum Management to gain access to commercial digital TV spectrum, ideally channel 25 or 26 depending on location in the country. The channel(s) would allow amateur DVB-T television transmissions (e.g. from a repeater) to be received by unmodified household television receivers.

The annual fee from Radio Spectrum Management to be in line with the current amateur repeater fees.

The NZART Executive Council made the following comment about the remit in *Break-In.* The NZART Executive Council wishes to remind the membership that in previous times, the NZART has explored options with the licensing authority to gain access to a DVB-T channel with no success.

Outcome of the vote. Passed on a show of hands.

Remit 3: NZART HQ Procedure Manual - Submitted by Branch 05 (Christchurch).

NZART head office to maintain a written manual of operational processes and this manual is to be followed for all decisions. This manual would also be used as a training guide for any new staff.

Outcome of the value. Failed on voices.

Remit 4: Schedule A - Electronic Voting. Submitted by the NZART executive council.

The first two sentence of the remit were the following. The returning officer must in each election year arrange for the preparation of either an electronic voting mechanism or conventional voting as directed by NZART council. Any electronic system used must be secure (as far as reasonable) from electoral interference.

The first sentence of the justification for introducing electronic voting was the following. The above permits the use of an electronic voting system if council chooses this approach in the future, while maintaining the integrity of the voting system.

Outcome of the vote. Passed on a show of hands.

Remit 5: Constitution clause 4.3 change

NZART's books of account up to now were reviewed each year by chartered accountant who is a member of the Institute of Chartered Accounts Australia New Zealand. The remit proposed changing the constitution so that the books of account can be review or audited each year by an appropriately qualified person.

The accompanying explanation was the following.

It is difficult, costly and unnecessary to find a chartered accountant to complete a review. This relaxes the charted accountant requirement so that we can use someone with the appropriate qualifications but need not be chartered. It also corrects the disconnect between “review” and “audit report” in the clause, and allows for the appointment of either a reviewer or auditor, as may be required.

Outcome of vote. Passed on voices.

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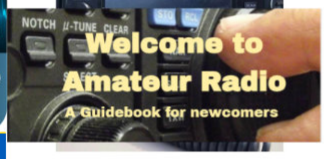

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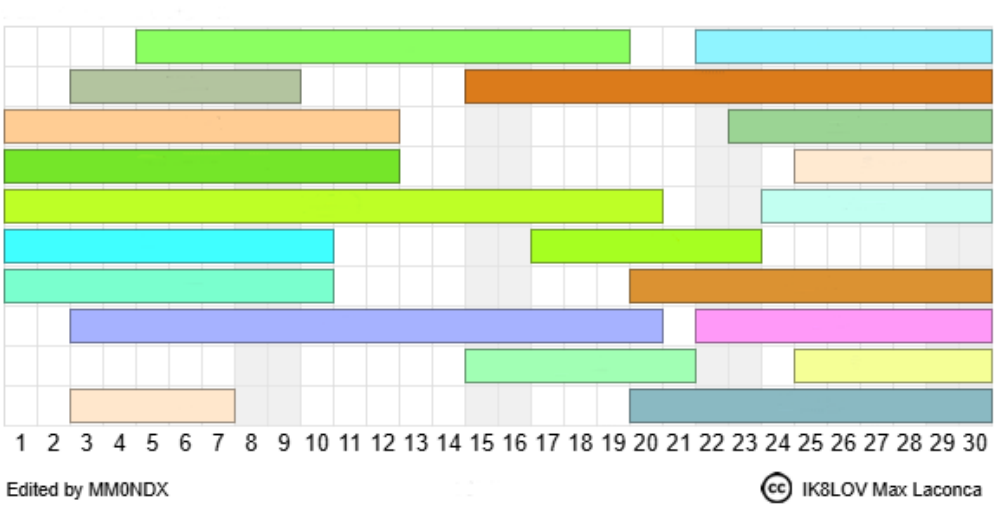
DX Happenings

Information for this article is mostly collected from DX World. Click on the image to visit the website.


DXWORLD.net
FEATURED DXPEDITIONS TIMELINE
1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25 26 27 28 29 30
Edited by MM0NDX
IK8LOV Max Laconca

DXPeditions in our region
This is a sample only - there is more to discover **HERE**

Yushi, JK1HFB announces that he will be active from Chichijima, Ogasawara Islands as JK1HFB/ JD1 between July 9-18, 2026. QRV on 40-6m; SSB & FT8. QSL via LoTW.

Starting at 1900z July 8th, T22TT hit the airwaves from Tuvalu. Activity will last approx 7-10 days, mainly FT8; some CW & SSB.

Aki, JK1JXZ will again be active from Funafuti, Tuvalu as T2JK during July 30 – August 7, 2026. QRV on 80-6m; on weekdays he will be active after 5pm Tuvalu time and all day during the weekend of his stay. If the stay is extended, it may be possible to continue operations until August 14. QSL va LoTW.

The Radio Amateur Society of Australia
RASA
Foundation Level
Study Guide
V3 November 2025
Your Gateway to the
World of Amateur Radio
Amateur Radio provides virtually unlimited opportunities for you to explore the technical, scientific and social aspects of this truly global hobby
A Free Amateur Radio
Learning Resource
This multimedia learning resource has been developed by RASA and is provided free of charge.

Foundation Level Study Guide

RASA developed this resource to make your entry into the hobby easier and cheaper.

Like all our resources, the Foundation Level Study Guide is free, and we encourage you to share it with your club, friends and others who may be interested in becoming a radio amateur.

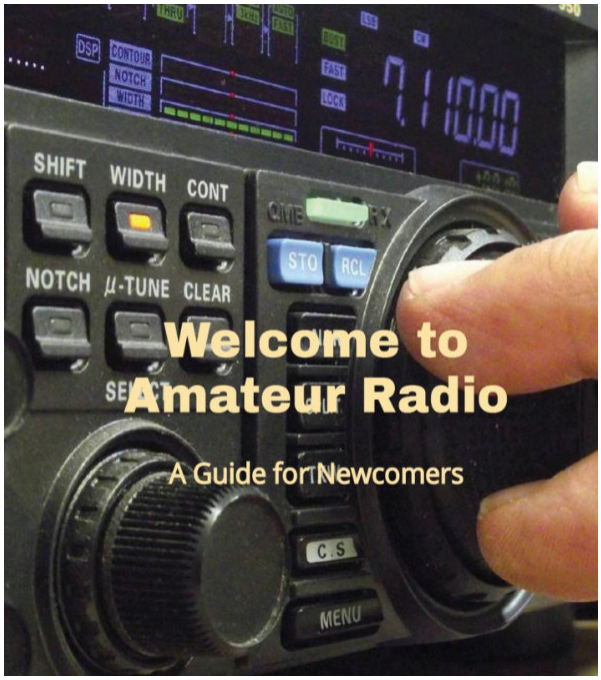
The resource is backed up by our other award-winning resources, including QRM Guru, the Welcome to Amateur Radio Guidebook, VK Regulations Handbook and other resources on our website.

Click on the image to view or download the FLSG.

The RASA Welcome to Amateur Radio Guidebook provides an introduction to our hobby for new Foundation class amateurs.

The book is published digitally. It contains many hotlinks to external websites with useful information.

It is available as an Acrobat pdf file suitable for reading on a PC or tablet. It can be printed if required.



NORTHERN CORRIDOR RADIO GROUP (NCRG)

VK6ANC • VK6NC • VK6NE

Hosted by the Northern Corridor Radio Group Inc.

WESTERN AUSTRALIA'S HAMFEST 2026

BUY • SELL • SWAP AMATEUR RADIO EQUIPMENT

EVERYONE WELCOME!

Licensed Operators • SWLs
Beginners • Makers
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EVENT FEATURES

- Amateur Radio Equipment
- Buy • Sell • Swap
- New & Used Gear
- Antennas & Accessories
- Electronics & Components
- Club Displays & Demonstrations
- Food & Refreshments Available

EVENT DETAILS

DATE:	30TH AUGUST 2026 SUNDAY
TIME:	9:00AM – 12:00PM
VENUE:	CYRIL JACKSON RECREATION CENTRE 53 Reid Street, Bassendean WA 6054
ENTRY:	$7.00 ENTRY FEE Kids under 16 FREE

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RAFFLE TICKETS & INFO: https://rafflelink.com.au/hamfest-raffle-2026

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VHF/UHF Digital Handheld Transceiver

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Includes various supplied accessories from the manufacturer. No prizable alternatives are.

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ICOM IC-T10

VHF/UHF Dual Band FM Handheld Transceiver

- SW RF Output
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- UHF 400–520MHz recv/d
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- Up to 11 Hours Operating Time

Includes various supplied accessories from the manufacturer. No available to substitute are.

For product: icomjapan.com.au/products/IC-T10/

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4th PRIZE – VALUED AT $150

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Redeemable through Comtek Radio Communications Australian

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RAFFLE TICKETS & INFO VISIT: https://rafflelink.com.au/hamfest-raffle-2026

• KEEP AMATEUR RADIO STRONG •

GGREC Hamfest a Success

On the 4th of July the Gippsland Gate Radio & Electronics Club held their annual Hamfest sale in Longwarry Victoria. It was a great success with around 200 people attending the event. With some 32 tables of equipment on display. Traders such as G&C Communications and Comtek also attended.

While Hamfest sales remain as an excellent fundraiser for clubs, they service a greater need to

the Amateur radio community. A sausage sizzle at Bunnings is still an excellent way to build up club accounts, but there remains something special about seeing 200 people meeting friends and talking at length about their shared passion for radio communications. It brings together members of many clubs under a shared roof and reminds us that our hobby is still very active. Visitors from EMDRC, Eastern Zone, Moorabbin, FAMPARC and SPARC were all represented in addition to the many host GGREC members.

The venue is a well maintained rural art-deco hall built in the 1950's. Not a large venue but a cosy one on what was a cold winter's day.

Two RASA directors were at this event, with a table of promotional material and friendly advice for Amateurs dealing with interference issues and candidates seeking information on exam processes.

RASA
The Radio Amateur Society of Australia
RASA
Radio for the Curious & Creative
The Radio Amateur Society of Australia

We can't have a presence at every event, but we do what we can. RASA will be present at the 2026 VKFF National Get Together event at Albury at the end of September, and at the NCRG Hamfest in Perth on 30th August.

VK Trans-Tasman - 18th July

Coming up very soon is the VK Trans-Tasman Low Band Contest, which is on the evening of Saturday 18th of July.

This Six hour contest starts at 0800z and goes to 1400z. That's 6pm till Midnight AEST, and 4pm to 10pm in VK6.

Voice operators please keep out of the digital section on 80m from 3570 to 3600KHz, otherwise zero points may be allocated to QSO's worked in that area or be disqualified if running continuously.

Please exchange RS(T) and a serial number.

The contest is divided into 3 x 2 hour blocks. Work a station once per band and mode in every block. Remember that each new prefix is a multiplier to the score.

For detailed information including the rules please visit the **WIA contest pages** and remember to add the contest to your diary.

August 15 and 16 Remembrance Day Contest

This contest commemorates the Amateurs who died during World War II and is designed to encourage friendly participation and help improve the operating skills of participants. It is held on the weekend closest to the 15th August, the date on which hostilities ceased in the southwest Pacific area.

A perpetual trophy is awarded annually to the Australian state or territory with the best performance. The name of the winning State or Territory is inscribed on the trophy, and that State or Territory then holds the trophy for 12 months. The winning State or Territory is also given a certificate, as are leading entrants.

Aim Of The Contest

Amateurs will endeavour to contact amateurs in VK call areas, ZL and P29 on all bands except WARC bands. Modes allowed are PHONE, CW and RTTY as per the era remembered.

The RD is a staple of the Australian Contesting scene and is a contest suitable for operators of all skill levels. So have ago. If you (like me) don't have the stamina to do 24 hours operation, or can't for any other reason, you're able to give it a go as often as you can.

International Lighthouse and Lightships Weekend

Although not strictly a contest, this international activity often occurs on the same weekend as the RD contest, and ILLW stations usually run an RD Contest log at the same time.

So, if you hear a Lighthouse and Lightships station calling CQ, give them a shout, tell them that you're working the RD contest and you'll receive a contest exchange in addition to going into the ILLW log for that station.

There are 18 Australian stations registered for ILLW. A complete list of entrants is on the ILLW website **HERE**.

August 29-30 ALARA Contest

The ALARA Contest is always on the last full weekend of August.

All licensed operators throughout the world are invited to participate. Scout and Girl Guide groups are encouraged to participate using their Club's equipment and callsign.

This contest runs over 24 hours, using phone and CW modes, although Echolink contacts are also accepted.

There's a bit of a twist in how this one runs - YLs work everyone; OMs work YLs only.

The contest rules are on the **ALARA website**, and while there, if you're an Amateur of the female variety, you may be interested in reading more about ALARA and perhaps joining.

QTC Ads

QTC welcomes advertisements from suppliers of Amateur Radio and related equipment and services. We appreciate the financial support and set our rates to ensure every business can afford to advertise.

Rates are as follows and are per issue.

Advertisers are also invited to make a regular monthly (or one-off) donation to RASA in place of a fixed advertisement fee per issue. Contact info@vkradioamateurs.org to discuss.

Advert size	**Price**
¼ page	$30
½ page	$50
Full page	$95

QTC and RASA reserve the right to reject any advertisement we believe does not meet community standards or may misrepresent the offering.

Payment must be made in advance to our bank or PayPal account.

Contact the RASA team by email to set up your ads in QTC.

General Information:

- Graphics should be around 200 DPI in resolution, and not significantly larger than you expect them to appear on the page
- If supplying text and graphics, provide them separately. Alternatively you may provide the completed work as a PDF (easy option).
- QTC pages are A4, (210 x 297mm) with a 25mm margin all round. Images may be extended beyond the margins when there is no free text elsewhere on the page.
- QTC will include a Table of Contents entry for your advertisement, linked to the page containing your advertisement.
- Where a link to your website or email is provided, we can include hot links to those.

QTC is usually published at the end of the first full week of the month.

VKFF National Get Together 2026

The 2026 VKFF National Get Together is on the weekend Friday 30th October to Sunday 1st November, in Albury, New South Wales.

The 2026 annual event for the Australian chapter of the World Wide Flora Fauna (WWFF) program includes:

- Friday evening dinner
- Saturday presentations, a raffle, and various displays
- Saturday evening dinner with a quiz and a guest speaker
- Sunday morning BBQ breakfast, antenna construction projects
- Sunday afternoon VKFF park activations
- Sunday evening dinner.

The guest speakers this year include Dave G4AKC, Sands VK9WX, and Chris VK3QB, a member of the recent VJ2L Lord Howe Island DXpedition Team.

Dave G4AKC

Chris VK3QB

Sandeep (Sands) VK9WX, VK4WXW

Displays

There will be displays by Icom Australia, Comtek, ex-military portable radios, Meshcore, and several others.

You Must Register

Prior registration is required to attend the Get Together. Walk-ups will not be accepted.

More information on the event, including cost & the registration process, can be found on the WWFF Australia website.

Where is Albury?

Albury is a city of almost 60,000 people located on the NSW side of the Murray River. Across the border is the Victorian city of Wodonga, with a population of around 48,000.

Above: Map showing the location of Albury, N.S.W. Map c/o Google Maps

DISTANCES BY ROAD TO ALBURY

Melbourne to Albury - 331 km	Brisbane to Albury 1452 km
Canberra to ALbury - 338 km	Sydney to Albury - 550 km
Adelaide to Albury - 858 kms	Perth to Albury 3405 km

Looking forward to seeing you at Albury.

Paul VK5PAS.

VKFF National Co-Ordinator

Hamfest
COMING SOON
info@vkradioamateurs.org